



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5450

February Session, 2000

An Act Concerning Municipal Day Camps.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 19a-420 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

3 As used in this chapter:

4 [(a)] (1) "Youth camp" means any regularly scheduled program or
5 organized group activity advertised as a camp or operated by a
6 person, partnership, corporation, association, the state or a municipal
7 agency for recreational or educational purposes and accommodating
8 for profit or under philanthropic or charitable auspices five or more
9 children, under eighteen years of age, who are [(1)] (A) not bona fide
10 personal guests in the private home of an individual, and [(2)] (B)
11 living apart from their relatives, parents or legal guardian, for a period
12 of three days or more per week or portions of three or more days per
13 week, provided any such relative, parent or guardian who is an
14 employee of such camp shall not be considered to be in the position of
15 loco parentis to [his] such employee's child for the purposes of this
16 chapter, but does not include schools which operate a summer
17 educational program or licensed day care centers;

18 [(b)] (2) "Resident camp" means any youth camp which is
19 established, conducted or maintained on any parcel or parcels of land

20 on which there are located dwelling units or buildings intended to
21 accommodate five or more children for at least seventy-two
22 consecutive hours and in which the campers attending such camps eat
23 and sleep;

24 [(c)] (3) "Day camp" means any youth camp which is established,
25 conducted or maintained on any parcel or parcels of land on which
26 there are located dwelling units or buildings intended to accommodate
27 five or more children during daylight hours for at least three days a
28 week with the campers eating and sleeping at home, except for one
29 meal per day, but does not include programs operated by a municipal
30 agency;

31 [(d)] (4) "Person" means any individual, partnership, association,
32 organization, limited liability company or corporation;

33 [(e)] (5) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Public Health;
34 and

35 [(f)] (6) "Department" means the Department of Public Health.

36 Sec. 2. Section 19a-422 of the general statutes is repealed and the
37 following is substituted in lieu thereof:

38 (a) To be eligible for the issuance or renewal of a youth camp license
39 pursuant to this chapter, the camp shall satisfy the following
40 requirements: [(a)] (1) The location of the camp shall be such as to
41 provide adequate surface drainage and afford facilities for obtaining a
42 good water supply; [(b)] (2) each dwelling unit, building and structure
43 shall be maintained in good condition, suitable for the use to which it
44 is put, and shall present no health or fire hazard as so certified, within
45 ninety days of such application, by the [Department of Public Health]
46 department or the State Fire Marshal, as the case may be; [(c)] (3) there
47 shall be an adequate and competent staff, which includes the camp
48 director, activities specialists, counselors and maintenance personnel,
49 of good character and reputation; [(d)] (4) all hazardous activities,
50 including but not limited to archery, aquatics, horseback riding and

51 firearms instruction, shall be supervised by a qualified activities
52 specialist who has adequate experience and training in his specialty;
53 [(e)] (5) the staff of a resident and nonresident camp shall at all times
54 include an adult trained in the administration of first aid as required
55 by the commissioner; [(f)] and (6) records of personal data for each
56 camper shall be kept in any reasonable form that the camp director
57 may choose, including [therein] in such records the camper's name,
58 age and address, [:] the name, address and telephone number of the
59 parents or guardian, [:] the dates of admission and discharge, [:] and
60 [other] such other information as the commissioner shall require.

61 (b) Any youth camp licensed under this chapter shall operate only
62 as the type of camp authorized by such license. Such camps shall not
63 advertise any service they are not equipped or licensed to offer. The
64 license shall be posted in a conspicuous place at camp headquarters
65 and failure to so post the license shall result in the presumption that
66 the camp is being operated in violation of this chapter.

67 Sec. 3. (NEW) (a) As used in this section, (1) "day camp" means any
68 youth camp that is established, conducted or maintained on any parcel
69 or parcels of land on which there are located dwelling units or
70 buildings intended to accommodate five or more children during
71 daylight hours for at least three days a week with the campers eating
72 and sleeping at home, except for one meal per day, and (2) "youth
73 camp" shall have the same meaning as provided in section 19a-420 of
74 the general statutes, as amended by this act.

75 (b) Each municipal agency that operates a day camp shall comply
76 with the requirements set forth in subsection (a) of section 19a-422 of
77 the general statutes, as amended by this act, and the regulations
78 adopted by the Commissioner of Public Health pursuant to section
79 19a-428 of the general statutes, as amended, provided, any
80 municipality may, by ordinance, adopt standards for the safe and
81 sanitary operation of a day camp by an agency of such municipality
82 that are higher than the standards set forth in said subsection and such
83 regulations. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to require

84 any day camp operated by a municipal agency to be licensed under
85 chapter 368r of the general statutes.

86 (c) The local or district director of health having jurisdiction over
87 any day camp operated by a municipal agency may inspect such day
88 camp and may enforce the provisions of subsection (b) of this section
89 or any ordinance adopted by a municipality for the safe and sanitary
90 operation of a day camp by an agency of such municipality.

PH Committee Vote: Yea 22 Nay 0 JFS